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**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method for preventing necrosis in a pedicle flap or in any microvascular surgery comprising topically applying to pedicle or other source of blood supply, a therapeutically effective amount of vasodilator composition containing NO or NO donor or prodrug that causes formation of nitrosothiol in tissue, optionally in combination with lidocaine.
2. The method of Claim 1 where the vasodilator composition contains alkyl nitrite of molecular weight up to 10,000.
3. The method of Claim 2 where the alkyl nitrite is ethyl nitrite.
4. The method of Claim 1 where the vasodilator composition contains an S-nitrosothiol
5. The method of Claim 4 where the S-nitrosothiol is cyclodextrin NO.
6. The method of Claim 1 where the vasodilator composition contains a metal nitrosyl.
7. A method for delivering a drug comprising incorporating the drug in a gel or in a solution or in a pharmaceutical base, containing from 1  $\mu$ M to 100  $\mu$ M nitrosylated polythiolated cyclodextrin or other nitrosylated polymer or long lived gel coating equivalent exemplified by cyclodextrin or coating the drug in pill form with a coating that delivers nitric oxide, and administering the resulting drug containing composition topically to the skin or topically to the gastrointestinal tract.
8. The method of Claim 7 where the drug is incorporated in a therapeutically effective amount in a gel containing from 1  $\mu$ M to 100 mM nitrosylated polythiolated cyclodextrin.